

42. A NOTE ON THE ADDITIONAL HOST RANGE
FOR THE GENUS *KORTHASELLA* VAN TIEGH. FAMILY LORANTHACEAE,
FROM NILGIRIS, SOUTHERN INDIA

During floristic studies in the Mukkurthi National Park in November 2000, we were able to collect a number of rare and endemic plants of the Nilgiris. In addition to the above, our research team also collected a curious semi-parasitic plant in the Mukkurthi Dam area, later identified as *Korthasella japonica* (Thunb.) Engler (Family Loranthaceae). While collecting the parasitic plant, the host plants were also noted and identified. The literature (J.S. Gamble and C.E.C. Fischer, Fl. Pres. Madras, 1957 [Repr. Ed.]) indicates that the genus *Korthasella* normally grows only on *Rhododendron arboreum* J.E. Smith subsp. *nilagirieum* (Zenk) Tagg. (Family Ericaceae), whereas our observations revealed that it can also grow on species like *Canthium neilgherrense* Wight var. *chartaceum* (Gamble) Swamin. (Family Rubiaceae), *Ilex*

wightiana Wall. ex Wight (Family Aquifoliaceae) and *Ternstroemia japonica* (Thunb.) Thunb. (Family Theaceae). We conclude that the above mentioned species form additional hosts for *Korthasella* in the Nilgiri hills, and hope that further intensive explorations will throw more light on its host range.

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43. REDISCOVERY OF A CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES
PHYLLANTHUS BEDDOMEI (GAMBLE) MOHANAN, EUPHORBIACEAE,
FROM KALAKAD-MUNDANTHURAI TIGER RESERVE IN INDIA

(With one text-figure)

Gamble described a new species of *Reidia*, *R. beddomei* based on the collections of R.H. Beddome from Chokkampatti in Tirunelveli hills, and T.F. Bourdillon from Travancore hills, at about 1,640 m, in 1925. Mohanan in 1985 transferred this species to *Phyllanthus* and made a combination — *Phyllanthus beddomei*. Using this literature, specimens collected from the Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) of Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, were identified. Dr. N.P. Balakrishnan, expert on Euphorbiaceae, confirmed the identity. This species was rediscovered after a lapse of about 73 years in 1998. There is no specimen in MH. Its populations are found only in one locality,

the species deserves the critically endangered threat category. The species is described with related details and illustrated to help identification for facilitating conservation.

Phyllanthus beddomei (Gamble) Mohanan in J. Econ. Tax. Bot. 6: 480. 1985. *Reidia beddomei* Gamble in Kew Bull. 1925: 331. 1925 & Fl. Pres. Madras 1293. 1925 & 2: 904. 1957 (repr. ed.).

Subshrub, up to 2 m high, branches spirally arranged towards apex, glabrous. Leaves alternate, obliquely ovate, 2-3.7 x 0.7-1.2 cm, truncately obtuse at base, entire and thickened at margin, apiculate at apex, coriaceous, green above, pale green below, punctate, glabrous